



NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

PROBABILITY THAT JUDGE ROBERTSON WILL BE CONFIRMED, AND CERTAINLY THAT HIS NAME WILL BE WITHDRAWN—INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CAUCUS ACTION—A FEW MORE CONFIRMATIONS.

There is little apparent change in the situation at Washington. Senators who have talked with the President see no reason to believe that he will withdraw the nomination of Judge Robertson, or reverse the action of Thursday. It is thought probable that the Committee on Commerce may make a report next week upon Judge Robertson, whose confirmation is believed to be assured if the Senate has an opportunity to act. A different interpretation is put by some Senators upon the significance of the caucus action from that generally received; but nothing is made public tending to show that the President estimated the power it placed in Mr. Conkling's hands more highly than did that Senator. In executive session yesterday a few nominations were confirmed, and the Senate adjourned until Monday.

THE NEW-YORK NOMINATIONS.

PRESIDENT GARFIELD FIRM IN HIS SUPPORT OF JUDGE ROBERTSON—PROBABILITY OF HIS EARLY CONFIRMATION—SIGNIFICANT ACTION OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, May 6.—There appears to be no abatement of interest in the political situation, as developed by the withdrawal of the New-York nomination of General Woodford and Marshal Payn has added another feature of interest, more perplexing than pleasing, it is said, to the New-York Senators. Wherever politicians have been together in Washington to-day the action of the President and speculations as to what will be his future course, and as to what Senator Conkling, have been the exclusive topics discussed.

The general tone of comment has been more quiet than it was last evening, the first feeling of surprise on being reminded that General Garfield is actually President of the United States having gradually worn off. It was generally conceded among Senators this forenoon that it was idle to expect that the President would reverse his action or withdraw the nomination of Judge Robertson. No doubt there was at first a somewhat general hope among Republican Senators that the latter course might be pursued, "in the interest of harmony." While they might still be glad if this could be done, there is by no means a feeling of discontent because the President adheres to the position he publicly assumed yesterday.

Some Republican Senators say, however, that the President appears to have given a different interpretation to the caucus rule from that which it was intended to bear. In explaining this to a TRIBUNE correspondent to-day, a Republican Senator incidentally revealed a bit of the secret proceedings of the last caucus. In substance he said: "Before that rule was adopted in the caucus it was freely discussed, and it would never have been adopted as a binding law had there not been a fair and full understanding that it was to be so construed as to permit a fair consideration at this session of all the nominations and a vote upon every one of them. I remember that one Senator said, in terms, that if he would not be bound by a rule that should be construed to prevent fair and respectful consideration of every nomination at this session; and I am sure he voiced the sentiments of a large majority of the caucus. It was, therefore, agreed that the rule should become operative as soon as the list of nominations had been given over once, and that a Republican caucus should then immediately be convened to take into consideration the subject of nominations which had been laid over under objection. It was also provided that in case of a failure to call that caucus, or of the failure of a quorum to attend it, every Senator should be free to vote as he pleased, and to be released from every caucus obligation."

No doubt all this is perfectly true, and yet it does not quite explain why the unprecedented caucus rule was adopted. The Senate has rules for the conduct of executive business, and they have hitherto been found sufficient. Moreover, it was the expressed intention of Mr. Conkling, according to his nearest friends, to have action upon Judge Robertson's nomination postponed until next December; and he was an advocate of the caucus rule as a means to secure that end. He, at least, evidently placed upon the rule the same interpretation that President Garfield did.

There is not the slightest reason to doubt that the course of a great majority of the Republican Senators, throughout this unfortunate controversy, has been inspired by an earnest desire to bring about a harmonious settlement; and any errors into which they may have fallen were errors of judgment only. Those Senators were willing to go a great way in deference to Mr. Conkling's views, but they were not willing to allow him to prevent any action upon Judge Robertson's nomination, at this session. The question as to the relative order in which the several New-York nominations should be considered does not appear to have regarded as of sufficient importance to have a contest upon with Senators Conkling and Platt. In fact, this was the point where "Senatorial courtesy" came in.

A Senator, who was of the minority which called upon the President last evening, thus describes the interview: "The President listened to us, and then made the speech which he had made to several of us before. He arose from his chair, walked about the room, became very earnest, gave emphasis to his speech by striking the table, and insisted with emphasis that he had not sought a quarrel with Conkling, and did not now seek it. He simply wished his Administration to be treated at least with respect. He said that, in his opinion, Conkling had planned to act upon the nominations of his own hands and then to force a final adjournment, leaving the nomination of Robertson in his own committee to another day. The decision of the Republican Caucus Committee had given Conkling this power, he said. Such an action, the President claimed, would not be just to him, and he had determined to use all of his efforts to secure some action on Robertson's case. He did not intend such an affront to Mr. Conkling, and he desired harmony as much as anybody could desire it, but this step was necessary as a means to secure justice to the Administration."

There is no indication that Senator Conkling has yielded in any degree his determination to exhaust every possible resource to prevent Judge Robertson from becoming Collector of the Port of New-York. For weeks he has been laboring with great assiduity among Democratic Senators to enlist their support. Among other circumstances that have attracted attention has been the part played by the Vice-President. It has been noticed during the last two or three weeks that he has quite frequently vacated the chair, and has usually, although not invariably, invited a Democratic Senator to preside. Either Mr. Harris, Mr. Cockrell or Mr. Voorhees has been called upon on such occasions; and curiously enough, those three Democratic Senators are among those claimed as recent recruits to the anti-Robertson ranks. A Democrat remarked to-day that he did not believe Senator Harris would "rise to that bait."

There are indications, however, that the opposition to Judge Robertson is weaker than it was a week ago, and there is every probability that he will be promptly confirmed whenever the case comes to a vote; and not by a majority composed of Democratic votes either. It is said

by friends of the President that Mr. Conkling will find, after Judge Robertson has entered upon the duties of Collector, that the Custom House is not to be used against Mr. Conkling; that no man will be turned out simply because he is "a Conkling man," nor will any man receive a Custom House appointment merely because he is "an anti-Conkling man."

It is expected that at a Republican caucus, which is understood to be held next Monday, the Robertson nomination will be discussed and some conclusion will be reached. Probably some Senators, in view of the change in the situation caused by the withdrawal of the New-York nominations, will think that the rule adopted by the last caucus should be considered no longer binding; and it may be that Mr. Conkling himself will conclude it best to announce his readiness to report Judge Robertson's nomination to the Senate from the Committee on Commerce, of which he is the chairman. It now appears probable that in any event the nomination of Judge Robertson will be acted upon, and in all probability will be confirmed.

It is not expected that Mr. Tyler will be renominated for Collector at Buffalo, it being understood that the President decided several weeks ago to withdraw his name. Mr. Gould, of Buffalo, is in Washington, and is an applicant for the office. He was a candidate when the President decided to nominate Mr. Tyler. Mr. Gould is claimed as a Conkling man. There is a revival of the talk that ex-Senator Burt Van Horn will be superseded by Colonel Sill as Internal Revenue Collector at Rochester, and this talk appears to have a basis of probability.

ACTION OF THE SENATE.

RENEWED EFFORT OF MR. DAWES TO PROCEED TO ELECTION OF OFFICERS—CONFIRMATIONS OF EXECUTIVE SESSION.

WASHINGTON, May 6.—In the Senate this morning Mr. Dawes (Rep., Mass.) took the floor, congratulating the Senate on that dispatch of the public business which enabled it this morning to take up again and consider, and he trusted, adopt the resolution which he had submitted in March. He did not ask any Senator to vote for the resolution; but he deemed it a right which he had under the rules and the Constitution to have it voted upon. "I invoke," he continued, addressing the Vice-President, "at your hands the protection of the Constitution of the United States in the exercise of the right which I have here, within its rules and within its legitimate functions, and which is now the only business before the Senate."

Mr. Harris (Dem., Tenn.) said that he had hoped that the Senator had risen for the purpose of moving to go into executive session, and that he would be glad to have the Senate have dispatched a large proportion of the public business, but more remained unconsidered and undischarged than he could have expected. He would not, however, object to the resolution, but he would move to go into executive session.

This motion was, at 12:25, agreed to, and some discussion followed on the Democratic side.

At 1:00, the Senate adjourned until Monday.

The greater part of the executive session to-day was occupied with the discussion of the propriety of removing the general impression of secrecy from the proceedings of yesterday and Wednesday in regard to the withdrawal of the New-York nomination of Judge Robertson. The subject was brought before the Senate by a motion to authorize the publication of the written speech of Senator Harris. This motion was agreed to, and the Senate proceeded to consider it. Mr. Dawes then moved to go into executive session, and the Senate adjourned until Monday.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, May 6, 1881.

An effort has been made to secure the release of gold of a large denomination.

Assistant Secretary Bell, of the Interior Department, will deliver the oration on Decoration Day at West Chester, Penn.

Era L. Stevens, for many years at the head of the "Civilization Division" of the Indian Bureau, has been appointed to the position of Chief of the Division.

Postmaster Pearson, of New York City, accompanied by Postmaster General James to the White House this morning and paid his respects to the President.

The amount of six per cent bonds received at the Treasury Department to-day for continuance at 45 per cent was \$12,294,400. An amount received to date aggregating \$12,294,400.

The Department of State has just published another volume No. 9, of the series of reports from all parts of the world by the Consuls of the United States on "Commerce, Manufactures and Products" of their districts.

Sir Edward Thornton says in relation to the report recently cable from London that he is to be sent to St. Petersburg, that he has received no intimation of such intention on the part of his Government, and on the contrary that he is to remain here.

A communication has been received by the Secretary of the National Board of Health from the Turkish Minister, G. Aristaraki, saying that the plague is prevalent in the District of Chirine, to the north of the Euphrates and along the Indus-Kaife Canal. The town of Chirine is situated on the right bank of the Indus, and to a few of the neighboring villages and adjacent rivers. Local isolation is carefully watched over.

An order has been prepared and will soon be promulgated regarding the military divisions of the same status as before the order of December 11, 1880, which created the Division of the Gulf. By the new order General Schofield is placed on waiting orders until further orders of the President, with full pay. The territory formerly embraced in the Division of the Gulf is restored to the Division of the South Atlantic station, under the command of Lieutenant-General Sheridan. The Divisions of the Atlantic and Pacific remain unchanged under command respectively of General Hancock and General McDowell.

ARMY AND NAVY ORDERS.

WASHINGTON, May 6.—Second-Lieutenant Enno F. Wenckebach, 6th Infantry, will be relieved from duty at David's Island, New-York Harbor, by the Superintendent-General of the Recruiting Service, and will then proceed to join his company.

Commodore E. R. Callahan has been ordered to duty as Inspector of Vessels in California, on the 20th inst.

Inspector of Vessels in California has been ordered to the command of the South Atlantic station on the reporting of his relief, and ordered to return home and report to the Secretary of the Navy.

Commodore James H. Spots, from duty as Inspector of Vessels in California on the 20th inst., and ordered to the command of the South Atlantic station, per steamer of the U. S. S. Kearsarge, having taken on coal and provisions, left the Navy Yard, Portsmouth, Va., this morning.

THE CHINESE TREATIES.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 6.—The *Alta* (Republican), in regard to the ratification of the Chinese Treaties, says:

"The Pacific Coast will welcome the act of ratification as the dawn of a better era for its industrial and social development. The possible benefit of unlimited access to the markets of the Pacific is a matter of no small importance, and in a general view, more than counterbalanced by the evils resulting from the presence of a large number of people, not only of foreign birth, but foreign to our social and political system in their habits, training, morals and aspirations. The treaty being ratified, there arises the question of the best way to deal with the practical effect. The solution of the Chinese question has been well begun."

The *Virginia* (New) *Enterprise* (Republican) says: "The ratification of the treaty is something for which to

be thankful. It is only, however, a preliminary step gained in the great struggle to relieve this country of an intolerable grievance. It paves the way for enlightened legislation, having for its object the turning back of the Asiatic tide. No body of the people of the East are interested in the speedy action of Congress necessary to give effect to the treaty."

THE STAR ROUTE SWINDLING.

ARRESTS AT PHILADELPHIA OF PERSONS CHARGED WITH CONSPIRACY TO DEFAUD THE GOVERNMENT.

PHILADELPHIA, May 6.—United States Commissioner Smith this afternoon issued warrants for the arrest of five persons charged with having committed frauds upon the Government in connection with the execution of worthless bonds for star route contractors. At 4 o'clock three had been arrested and were given a preliminary hearing before Commissioner Smith. Those were William R. Cason, Joseph Funk and Joseph Blackman. The United States District Attorney, who represented the Government, produced no evidence but gave briefly the charges against the defendants. Funk and Blackman are charged with being principals in bonds executed in July, 1879, and Cason is charged with acting as surety, representing himself to be worth in each case \$25,000. They are, therefore, charged with conspiracy to defraud the Government, and also with perjury. The bonds are said to be fraudulent. At 5 o'clock three more were arrested, and were given a preliminary hearing before Commissioner Smith. 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